

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): ~~Network~~ A network level admission control apparatus ~~(D)~~ for a set of ~~communications~~ networks comprising a first network, not using a-an IP level protocol, at a "sub-IP" level (NSIP) comprising border routers ~~(BR3-k)~~ interconnected by links associated with resources of known characteristics and managed by a first network management system ~~(NMS3)~~, the apparatus ~~being characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

control means ~~(CM)~~ fed by said network management system ~~(NMS3)~~ with data representative of said links between border routers ~~(BR3-k)~~ of said first network and of ~~the said~~ associated resources; and

wherein said control means arranged, in the event of receiving  
receives a request to transfer a call via said first network ~~(NSIP)~~, which said call is being associated with at least one service criterion and ~~designates~~ designating a second ~~communications~~ network ~~(NIP2)~~ connected to said first network and of a different type than said first network; and

~~to make use of~~ determines, using said data, ~~to determine~~ whether available resources exist that satisfy ~~the said at least one~~ service criterion ~~associated with said call to be~~ transferred; and

~~if so to forward~~ if said resources exist, forwards said call transfer request to a second control apparatus ~~(S2)~~ connected to a second network management system ~~(NMS2)~~

managing said ~~designated~~ second network; ~~(NIP2)~~, with

wherein said resources ~~being~~ are booked only if said resources are available ~~satisfying so~~  
as to satisfy said at least one service criterion in each of the networks ~~involved by servicing~~ said  
call.

2. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said service criterion is selected from a group comprising at least  
quality of service, ability to protect/restore a link, and security.

3. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 2,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said quality of service is defined by at least one parameter selected  
from a group comprising at least passband, delay, losses, and jitter.

4. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~  
claim 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein some of said data specifies a mode of management for  
a link by said network management system ~~(NMS3)~~.

5. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 4,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said modes are selected from a group comprising at least VPN,  
optical VPN, and IPSec.

6. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein some of said data defines restoration links and associated resources.

7. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~  
~~claim 1 to 3, characterized in that includes comprising:~~

~~memory (M), and in that which said control means (CM) are arranged to store stores~~  
~~received data in said memory (M) in the form of a connectivity matrix between border routers~~  
~~(BR3-k) of the first network (NSIP).~~

8. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~  
~~claim 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein~~ said control means ~~(CM)~~ are ~~suitable for being~~  
coupled to third control apparatus ~~(S1)~~ connected to a third network management system  
~~(NMS1)~~ managing a third ~~communications~~ network ~~(NIP1)~~ connected to the ~~sub-IP~~ first network  
~~(NSIP)~~ and of a different type, and from which said call transfer request comes.

9. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to any one of claims 1  
to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said second and third networks ~~(NIP2, NIP1)~~  
uses an IP level protocol.

10. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to any one of claims 1  
to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said second and third networks ~~(NIP2, NIP1)~~  
uses a protocol at sub-IP level.

11. (currently amended): ~~Network~~ A network equipment apparatus (S3) ~~suitable for~~  
~~being adapted to be~~ connected to a network management system ~~(NMS3)~~ managing a

~~communications~~ network using a protocol at sub-IP level ~~(NSIP)~~, the ~~equipment being~~  
~~characterized in that it includes~~ apparatus comprising:

at least one network level admission control apparatus ~~(D)~~ according to ~~any one of claims~~  
claim 1 to 10.

12. (currently amended): ~~The use of the~~ A method for network level admission  
control, comprising:

employing the apparatus ~~(D)~~ and the network equipment ~~(S3)~~ according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim-claim 1~~ in sub-IP ~~communications~~ networks selected from a group comprising space-  
division switching networks, WDM networks, TDM networks, and GMPLS networks.